AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: O91918

Appln. No.: 10/561,155

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A polyether ester elastic fiber comprising a polyether ester elastomer containing polybutylene terephthalate as a hard segment and polyoxyethylene glycol as a soft segment, characterized by having a coefficient of moisture absorption of not less than 5 % at 35°C and at a RH of 95 % and a coefficient of water absorption extension of not less than 10 %, wherein the polyether ester elastomer is copolymerized with at least one metal organic sulfonate selected from the group consisting of sodium 3,5 di(β -hydroxyethoxyearbonyl) benzenesulfonate, potassium 3,5 di(β -hydroxyethoxyearbonyl) benzenesulfonate, and lithium 3,5 di(β -hydroxyethoxyearbonyl) benzenesulfonate, and the intrinsic viscosity of the elastic fiber is not less than 0.9 and the polyether ester elastomer is copolymerized with a metal organic sulfonate represented by the following general formula (1), and an intrinsic viscosity of the elastic fiber is 0.9 to 1.2,

$$\begin{bmatrix}
X & 1 - R & 1 - X & 2 \\
\downarrow & & & \\
S & O_3 & & & \\
\end{bmatrix}$$
M 1

wherein R1 represents an aromatic hydrocarbon group or an aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

X1 represents an ester-forming functional group, X2 represents an ester-forming functional

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Appln. No.: 10/561,155

Attorney Docket No.: Q91918

group identical to or different from X1 or a hydrogen atom, M1 represents an alkali metal or an

alkaline earth metal, and j represents 1 or 2.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented): The polyether ester elastic fiber according to Claim 1,

wherein the shrinkage percentage of the elastic fiber in boiling water is not less than 10 %.

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The polyether ester elastic fiber according to Claim 1,

wherein the copolymerization quantity of the metal organic sulfonate is in a range of 0.1 to 20

percent by mole based on the acid component constituting the polyether ester elastomer.

6 - 7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): The polyether ester elastic fiber according to claim 1, wherein

the ratio of the hard segment: the soft segment is in a range of 30:70 to 70:30 based on

weight.

9. (previously presented): The polyether ester elastic fiber according to claim 1, wherein

a finishing oil in which at least one lubricant selected from the group consisting of mineral oils,

silicones and aliphatic esters and an ether-based or ester-based nonionic surfactant occupy 70 to

3

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Appln. No.: 10/561,155

Attorney Docket No.: Q91918

100 percent by weight and 0 to 30 percent by weight, respectively, of said finishing oil is

adhered to the surface of the elastic fiber in an amount of 0.5 to 5.0 percent by weight based on

the weight of said fiber.

10. (original): The polyether ester elastic fiber according to Claim 9, wherein the

viscosity of the finishing oil at 30°C is 5×10^{-6} to 4×10^{-5} m²/s.

11 - 20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented): A fabric comprising at least one portion including

the polyether ester elastic fiber according to Claim 1.

22. (previously presented): Clothing comprising at least one portion including

the polyether ester elastic fiber according to Claim 1.

23. (previously presented): Underwear, sportswear, lining, pantyhose, or socks

comprising at least one portion including the polyether ester elastic fiber according to Claim 1.

4